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C -- Cautions, D -- Dismissals Up to and including 26/11/74



ROGER DAY

set-piece specialist

Challenge Trophy for the PETER DEADMAN first time in their 90 year . . . best around. history, crashed out at the

first hurdle on Saturday at Ilford's Newbury Park ground. And in going down 0-3, they fell to the heaviest defeat since September last year when they were beaten 1-4 at Walton. With Wycombe's fine F.A.

WYCOMBE Wanderers.

competing in the F.A.



And bearing in mind Wanderers' excellent cup matches of the past, the Challenge Trophy will be sorely

Before the match at liford, it was obvious Wycombe would have to be at their best to get through this difficult third qualifying round tie. In the first than the home team, which contained no less than seven internationals. And yet after 45 minutes they were 0-2 down, two goalkeeping errors accounting for both goals. A Gary Hand own goal completed Wycombe's misery in the se-

cond half. And yet it could have all been great style and only two minutes had elapsed when Steve Perrin so very different had two excellent chances been converted broke clear and ran 20 yards early in the game. They weren't, before slipping the ball to Ilford made the most of the en-Evans. Dylan crossed well but suing errors and, in the end, finished up the superior side on the day. Wanderers should have goalkeeper Paul James, deputising for the injured Andy Williams, dived to cut the ball learnt their lesson against liford out. Ilford hit back with a cora few weeks ago in a league game at Loakes Park. They paid ner which Steventon held and then in the fifth minute for their mistakes on that day, drawing 3-3. chance of the match.

was announced, it looked as though the odds were stacked against them. Goalkeeper John Maskell was unfit due to a thigh injury and Tony Horseman was missing with 'flu. Young Brian Steventon, who had played only two friendlies for the Blues, was

thrown in at the deep end

against a side that has scored 10

more goals than any other club

in the Rothmans Isthmian

Evans replaced Horseman.

League this season. Dylan

At first, things went well for Wanderers. Then Steventon

made the first of two errors

which were punished unmerci-

fully by the home team. It is easy to criticise the 'keener who is

currently at Shoreditch College

only a few miles from the liford

ground. He certainly was direct-ly at fault with the first goal and

contributed to the second as

well as putting his own team-

mates under pressure with poor goalkicks. Had he possessed a

little more experience of soccer

at this level, no doubt he would

have had a happier day. But only time will give him that kind

of experience which can win or

lose matches and on the credit

side, he did make a couple of fine saves in the second half.

Wycombe started the game in

Wanderers had their best

Ilford centre back John Still, the superior team, With 27 intercepting a long ball from the visitors' defence, only succeeded in giving possession to Holifield just outside the box, Mick ran through a startled defence and had time to switch the ball onto his favourite left foot. In those

ran off his line and managed to

parry the shot and save a certain

Wycombe continued to die-

tate the first half with Keith

Mead going close in the 12th

minute. Three minutes later

James gathered a 30 yard volley

from Howard Kennedy and the

'keeper held another fine drive

from the same player seconds

At this stage, Wycombe were dominating the middle of the

field. Kennedy was getting up

well to win the ball in the air

while the front runners were

combining sweetly in attack.

The standard of the visitors'

passing was excellent and

repeatedly stretched the home

defence. Ilford, so busy defen-

ding, could offer very little

Everything was going to plan for Wycombe until the 24th minute. Dennis Bownill sent a hopeful 50 yard ball upfield for

the front runners to chase.

Steventon, however, was too

quick for them and raced out

well to dive and save as John

Butterfield closed in. But just as

the 'keeper rolled over, the ball

lipped out of his hands and

Tony Turley had the easy task of

shooting into an empty net. Steventon held his head in

Despite the set-back,

pressure liford and still looked

Wanderers continued to

minutes gone, chance number two came their way and was again wasted. Holifield broke clear on the left and his cross was headed on neatly by Perrin to Keith Searle. The centre forward had to take his shot first vital seconds, however, James time but ballooned a volley high

Undeterred. Wycombe still

threw everything forward and several of their best moves came

to grief after Ilford fouls

Referee Underwood would

perhaps have done better to

produce his notebook at this

time rather than later in the

game when two home players

playing a faultless game at

centre back, Wycombe were frustrated time and again. All

too often the fair haired defender would intercent the

vital pass or be in the spot just at

the right time to clear the ball

away. Deadman must surely be

one of the top defenders around

Throughout the first half little or nothing had been seen of that "man mountain" Tony Bass.

But in the last few seconds of in-

jury time he towered onto the

scene with a vengeance. With

only seconds remaining before

the interval. Deadman was foul-

ed by Holifield, Roger Day

floated over the free kick.

Steventon came out to his six

yard line in a bid to punch the

ball clear. Bass, however, was

there first and sent a looping

header bouncing over the un-

could well have asked where his

cover was on the line, but hav-

ing come out, should have made

the ball his own.

But with Peter Deadman

were cautioned

at present.

ERRORS PUT PAID

TO WANDERERS'

'TROPHY' HOPES

By STUART EARP: Ilford 3, Wycombe Wanderers 0

So, having dominated and dictated the first 45 minutes Wycombe found themselves trailing 2-0. Their chances of pulling back such a deficit seemed slim - and so it was to prove. The second period was far more even. Ilford playing a much greater port in events

> pushed the ball across the box and it was only the covering of Gary Hand that prevented a third goal, liford continued to press sending the ball deep into the

unleashing a fierce shot which Steventon did well to parry.

Keith Mead back pass fell short

Then in the 78th minute, a

area for Bass to test the goalkeeper. In the next 10 minutes they forced six corners which had the Blues' defence in desperate straits. In the 85th minute Tony

Gibson joined Barratt in the book for what the referee described afterwards as "a deliberate and dangerous foul." Gibson went in on Keith Mead and caught him badly on the shin. Keith was unable to con-tinue and had to be stretchered off. An X-ray after the game

pushed over the bar. Evans' narrow miss summed up Wanderers' frustration, Certainly the ball just had not run right for them throughout the tried to clear, but the ball went match. But, once again, the question mark was raised

with most of the crosses. Butterfield screened the ball

From the free kick just outside the box, Kennedy cleverly lofted the ball over the defensive wall to Evans, left unmarked for a crucial second. Dylan managed to deflect the ball goalwards but saw it bounce against the upright. The clearance came out to Kennedy who fired in a strong drive from an acute angle which James

against their finishing.

After that close shave, liford stormed into attack forcing three quick corners. Turley twice almost forced his way through the middle and the setpieces certainly worried Steventon who looked suspect

In a bid to change Wycombe's fortunes, manager Brian Lee brought on Terry Reardon for Dave Alexander in the 65th minute and almost immediately Terry fired in a rising shot which flew narrowly over the top. Ilford hit back immediately through the speed of Turley.

After four minutes of the new half Steventon saved a Steve Barratt cross at the second attempt and then two minutes later Bowhill went into the referce's book for handball.

> It was while he was off the field that Ilford scored the third goal, from a corner in the 87th minute. Day curled the ball in on the left foot and under pressure from Butterfield, Hand

> > off his thigh and into his own net with Steventon helpless. The four minutes of injury time added on by Mr Underwood only prolonged the agony for Wycombe who will do well to forget this game and get it completely out of their

WYCOMBE: B. Steventon, P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, G. Hand, D. Alexender (sub T. Reardon 65 mins.), H. Kennedy, M. Holiffeld, D. Evans, K. Saarle, S. Perrin.

ILFORD: P. James, D. Bowhill, P. Deadman, J. Still, R. Euton, R. Day, A. Gibson, S. Bernett, J. Butterfield, A. Bass, A. Turley, Sub. P. Scott (not used). Referee: K. Underwood (Romford). Half-time: 0-2. Goslecorers, liford Turiev (24), Bass (45), Hand o.o.



KEITH MEAD . . . stretchered off



MICK HOLIFIELD . . . crucial chance.

Five first team

WYCOMBE Wanderers stage their most attractive friendly of the season so far when they take on Swindon Town at Loakes Park tonight (Tuesday). Swindon are bringing down 17 players for the game including live regular first teamers. They are Tom Jenkins, Dave Munks, Dave Syrett, Mick McGovern and Hugh McLean.

After being relegated from the second division last term, Swindon could well jump straight back from the third They are currently second in the table. Latest result was a 4-1 home victory over fellow promotion seekers Colchester

United on Saturday. Wanderers are likely to have John Maskell back in goal following Brian Steventon's debut at Ilford on Saturday. Also in line for a game are Tony Horseman, Terry Reardon, Paul Griffiths and Graham Mackenzie. Keith Mead, whose ankle was badly bruised after a foul by Tony Gibson at Ilford, will give the injury at least a week's rest and may also be out for Saturday's home league match against Walthamstow Avenue.

Tonight's game is all pay members having already had their five "free" friendlies this

Ticket sales for next week's F.A. Cup tie with Bournemouth are going well. They are on sale at the clubhouse all this week until Thursday from 7.00-9.00 n.m. C block season ticket holders are reminded that their tickets for the match will not be retained after Thursday.